



## Press Release

### **Press Release Announcement – April 15, 2003 – For Immediate Use**

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## Pennsylvania 2003 Vegetable Intentions

**HARRISBURG** --- Processors in **Pennsylvania** intend to contract 7,300 acres of snap beans in 2003, 4 percent less than the 7,600 acres contracted in 2002, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sweet corn processors intend to contract 1,000 acres, down 29 percent from the 1,400 contracted in 2002. Tomato processor data is not published for Pennsylvania in an effort not to disclose individual operations.

**United States'** processors plan to contract 1.28 million acres of vegetables in 2003 for the nation's five major vegetable crops (snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes), unchanged from 2002. Acreage for freezing at 411,300 acres is down 2 percent, while acreage for canning forecast at 873,100 acres is up 1 percent from 2002. Increased acreage for cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes offsets decreased acreage for snap beans and sweet corn.

U.S. snap bean processors intend to contract 194,400 acres, down 12 percent from last year. Contracted acres for freezing are at 59,800, down 8 percent from 2002. Contracted acreage for canning, at 134,600 acres, is down 13 percent from 2002. Sweet corn processors intend to contract 438,600 acres, down 1 percent from the previous year. Contracted acreage for freezing at 216,400 acres is 3 percent less than last year's total, and contracted acreage for canning, at 222,200 acres is 1 percent more than last year. Tomato processors plan to contract 312,600 acres in 2003, up less than 1 percent from last year. Contract production at 11.49 million tons is 1 percent above 2002.

U.S. pickle packers intend to contract 95,600 acres, 20 percent above last year. Green pea processors intend to contract 243,200 acres, up 6 percent from last year. Contracted acreage for freezing, at 135,100 acres is 4 percent more than last year's total, and contracted acreage for canning at 108,100 acres is 10 percent above last year.